

1 **ABSTRACT**

2 Various embodiments provide methods and systems that utilize a protocol
3 which enables media content protection by establishing a secure communication
4 channel and, in some embodiments, a secure data channel, between a device such
5 as a computing device running a protected content playback application, and a
6 downstream component such as an associated driver, such as a graphics driver, of
7 an associated display device such as a monitor, flat panel LCD, television and the
8 like.